Import of Medical Equipments

2074. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of private organisations which were given excise duty relief for importing medical/ investigative equipments as on date; and

(b) what were the terms and conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the house.

Increase in Oral Cancer

2075. SHRI SANTOSH, BAGRODIA: Will the Minister, of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the oral cancer is on the increase in India;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the causes and remedy thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) The data collected under National Cancer Registry Programme of the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi do not indicate any increase in the incidence of oral cancer over the years. During the 8th Five Year Plan more emphasis is being given on prevention and early detection of cancer under National Cancer Control Programme. Various health education measures are being taken to educate the people to create awareness amongst them about the likely causes of cancer, including oral cancer. The ill-effects of Tobacco chewing and smoking are suitably highlighted.

Isolation of Hyaluronic Acid

2076. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a senior Scientist at the Eye Research Institute, Harvard Medical School, Boston, in association with the C.S.I.R. Centre for Bio-chemicals, Delhi isolated the chemical known as 'Hyaluronic acids' for the use by opthalmic surgeons to re-place the natural vitreous after retinal operations;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the cataract operation is likely to cost Rs. 50/- instead of Rs. 3,000 by using imported products; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to manufacture this product indigenously so as to give sight to millions of cataract patients in the country at a low cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) Dr. Bireshwar Chakrabarty, a Senior Scientist of the Eye Research Institute, Boston was a visiting Scientist at C.S.I.R. Centre for Bio-chemicals. The Scientists of C.S.I.R. Centre for Bio-chemicals have standardises a process for the isolation of Hyaluronic acids. Hyaluronic acid is used in:

1. Intra ocular Lens Surgery.
2. Corneal Transplantation.
3. Perforating Corneal injuries-repair.

Hyaluronic acid is also used as a substitute to replace natural vitreous. The findings of the process are a subject of patent application and it will not be in public interest to give full details of the process. The product isolated, however, satisfies the chemical and physical properties required for the grade used in ophthalmic surgery.

(c) and (d) Hyaluronic acid is one of the components involved in the total cost of the Cataract surgery. Other costs include intra-ocular lense (if an implant is to be made), Surgeon's charges etc. It is

expected that the cost of indigenous product will be substantially less as compared with the cost of comparable product available inter-nationally.

An agreement has been signed for the release of process for commercialisation so that the product becomes available to patients in India.

Expenditure on propogating Family Welfare Programmes

2077. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state what is the amount spent during the last five years to propogate Family Welfare Programmes on printing, electronic media and other means, yearwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): The amount spent during the last five years to propagate Family Welfare Programmes in the country on printing, electronic media and other means, year-wise, is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	*Amount spent*
1986-87	828.60
1987-88	1135.46
1988-89	1424.20
1989-90	1635.32
1990-91	1535.43

2078. [Transferred to the 26th March, 1992.]

Cultivation of Medicinal Herbs

2079. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government are taking to increase the cultivation of medicinal herbs; and

(b) what is the present target of export of Ayurvedic medicines and herbs and to what extent the target is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) A number of steps have been taken by the Govt. in this regard which are as under:

(i) National Wast lands Development Board, an Organisation under the Ministry of Environment and Forests have introduced a Centrally sponsored Scheme for raising minor Forest Produce including medicinal plants from 1988-89 onwards in the States. A sum of Rs. 6.50 lakhs has been allocated in 1991-92.

(ii) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) an organisation under the Ministry of Agriculture is operating an all India Coordinated Research Project on Medicinal and Atomatic Plants with Nine Centres all over the country for studying a number of crops. Besides, the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources New Delhi, is conserving Germ-plasm of some important Medicinal Plants and is also working on their tissue culture.

(iii) Survey, cultivation and Research of medicinal plants, are primary objectives of several Governmental departments functioning under various Ministries, for example, CCRAS under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Central Institute of Medicinal and Atomatic Plants (CIMAP), Central Indian Medicinal Plants Organisation (CIMPS), National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Central Drugs Research Laboratory (CDRL), National Institute of Oceanography. The National Institute of Oceanography exclusively conducts reserch on medicinally valuable sea-weeds.

(iv) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have implemented a scheme w.e.f. 1990-91 under which central assistance is provided to the Government/Semi-Government organisations in States/UTs for cultivation and development of identified species of Medicinal Plants.

(v) Some State Governments cultivate medicinal plants through their Forest Departments.

(b) The target fixed for the year 1991-92 is Rs. 198.90 crores for export of crude drugs (medicinal plants/herbs). The achievements for the period April, 1991 to January, 1992 is Rs. 92.10 crores.

No separate target has been fixed for export of Ayurvedic drugs, however, Ayurvedic medicines worth Rs. 1.9 crores have been exported during April, 1991 to January, 1992.